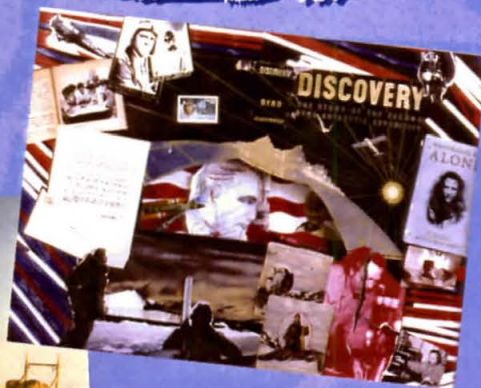


# ECHOES IN THE ICE



## EXPLORATION AND SCIENCE IN ANTARCTICA

An Exhibit presented by Rik van Grintenkamp, The Byrd Polar  
Research Center, and The Ohio State University Libraries

15 SEPTEMBER 2000 – 15 DECEMBER 2000

PHILIP SILLS EXHIBIT HALL  
THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES

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## ***Introduction to the exhibit:***

This exhibit is comprised of two distinctive components: the collages on the east wall of the Sills Gallery and the items contained in the horizontal and vertical display cases. The collages, which are on temporary loan to The Ohio State University, are the creations of Rik van Grintenkamp, a photographer and film producer who has been a student and enthusiast of polar exploration for many years. The cases in the gallery contain documents and artifacts from polar collections owned by The Ohio State University, as well as documentation of OSU's connection with Antarctica.

Both components of this exhibit came together as a result of an e-mail contact with Rick van Grintenkamp, a prominent photographer and producer of films and documentaries. Van Grintenkamp has long been fascinated by Antarctica. Even as a boy, he wrote to Admiral Byrd and asked to join one of his expeditions, a request politely rejected. Van Grintenkamp's collages evidence both his familiarity with the history of exploration in Antarctica and his use of xerographic technology to represent his knowledge in a way that is both artistic and instructional.

The Ohio State University has extraordinary connections with Antarctica. For many years, its Byrd Polar Research Center has sent scientists to Antarctica to study geology, meteorology, biology, paleoclimatology, and remote sensing, to name only a few disciplines. Meanwhile, The Ohio State University Libraries has been collecting and cataloging books and other research materials pertaining to Antarctica. In collaboration with the Byrd Polar Research Center, the Libraries established the Byrd Polar Research Center Archival Program. Among its collections are massive documentation of three prominent explorers of Antarctica--Admiral Richard E. Byrd, Sir Hubert Wilkins, and Dr. Frederick A. Cook.



## ***“Echoes in the Ice” Collages by Rik van Glintenkamp: About the Artist***

Rik van Glintenkamp has an extensive background in photography and in film. He had a successful career as a photographer in New York City. His photographs of fashion, beauty, and advertising appeared in such popular magazines as *Vogue*, *Glamour*, *Elle*, *Seventeen* and others. Later, he moved on to directing dramatic and documentary films for cable and public television, music videos, and films. Two award-winning films directed by van Glintenkamp and produced by his company *Gone West Productions* have appeared on PBS: a documentary, *The Frank Lloyd Wright Way: Apprentices to Genius*, and a period drama, *Nanette: An Aside*.



Van Glintenkamp's use of collages began as part of his film production work. As he explained, "I devised a method of story board that I call 'bulletin-boarding.' What this means is that I tack up all sorts of informational, content and style elements, relative to a film in production, on a bulletin board. In addition to production people, funders and clients appreciated the process. They could overview the elements important to the film before the production started shooting. From there it was a short step to the collage.

While developing an educational television series on explorers of Antarctica, van Glintenkamp developed more than thirty collages to synthesize his research about the men and the documentation of their accomplishments. The collages combine reproductions of maps, photographs, drawings and sketches, explorer's diaries and letters.

Van Glintenkamp relied greatly on sophisticated copiers/printers from Xerox for the high quality color resolution and the manipulation of spaces to design and print the collages. Particularly important to his creative processes was the Docucolor 12 copier, which van Glintenkamp described in a journal:

*As I work alone with the Docu-12, it begins to open visual doors for me. The normal procedure for copier use begins to reverse. I find myself not asking for visual solutions, but rather the Docu-12 and its edit pad are beginning to make suggestions to me. There's a great difference. They are gently opening visual doors that would not occur to me. How could they? How could a cave-man artist think about a printed page when Gutenberg had not yet invented the printing press?*

*As I work, I keep my ideas in flux as suggestions seem to emerge from the Docu-12 and the Edit*

*Pad. Their functions invite me to investigate a range of numerous techniques and visual approaches. They recall the editing process in my film productions. A variety of visual alternatives become apparent as I begin to explore new directions for the materials at hand. The entire project shifts into brand new and exciting domains. My techniques change, expand and intensify.*

Although the television series did not develop, the collages themselves became an independent exhibit, entitled "Echoes in the Ice." In 1992 and 1993, the collages were displayed at the Scott Polar Research Institute at Cambridge University in the United Kingdom. In 1996, the collection traveled to the Antarctic as a floating exhibition aboard the cruise ship *M/S Explorer*. More recently, the collages were on display at the Royal Geographic Society in London. In 1999, van Grintenkamp offered the exhibition to the Byrd Polar Research Center Archival Program for display at The Ohio State University Libraries.

The famous collages and detailed explanations hang on the east walls of the gallery. Van Grintenkamp will lecture about the exhibit at a reception sponsored by The OSU Libraries on October 27 (5:30 - 6:30 PM).





## *The Polar Historical Collections of The Ohio State University Libraries and the Byrd Polar Research Center*

### *Admiral Richard E. Byrd: The Hero*

Born in 1888 to one of the oldest and most distinguished families in the history of Virginia, Richard Byrd seemed destined for fame. First, Byrd sought a career in the U.S. Navy and graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy. However, a series of injuries made it difficult for Byrd to serve as a naval officer at sea, where long watches were required. In 1916, Byrd retired from the Navy, but the advent of World War I returned him into active service.



Byrd was particularly interested in the new technology of airplanes and earned his wings as a pilot at Pensacola. When World War I ended, Byrd maintained his interest in aviation and helped to navigate and plan the Navy team who achieved a transatlantic crossing by means of sea planes in 1919.

After commanding the U.S. Navy pilots assisting Donald MacMillan's expedition to Greenland in 1925, Byrd raised funds for his own expedition to fly across the North Pole in 1926, an accomplishment he announced on May 9, 1926. In recognition, the U.S. Congress awarded him the Medal of Honor and promoted him to commander. New York City threw a ticker tape parade. Byrd himself referred to his new status with both pride --and sometimes exasperation-- as "the hero business." Soon after, in 1927, Byrd added to his fame by leading a team that flew an airplane across the Atlantic Ocean, the third since Charles Lindbergh in that year.

Antarctica, however, would become the major theater of Byrd's career. Byrd led or participated in five expeditions to Antarctica, commencing in 1928. After the first expedition returned in 1930, Byrd received another ticker-tape parade in New York City, the others following the North Pole and the transatlantic flights. By the time of his death in 1957, Byrd was so closely affiliated with exploration and scientific investigation of Antarctica that some referred to him as the "Mayor of Antarctica."



## ***Admiral Richard E. Byrd: Tools of the Expedition***

Historians claim that Byrd transformed polar exploration from the “Mechanical Age.” Certainly, Byrd made use of the older techniques of polar exploration that had been used by others. Dog sleds, snowshoes, and skis continued to be important modes of transportation for Byrd.



However, Byrd’s most important accomplishment was in testing Twentieth Century technologies, which would expand the range of exploration and scientific investigation in Antarctica. His expeditions made extensive use of airplanes, both to map the continent and to deliver supplies to parties in the field. Trucks on skis and tracks made it possible to transport more equipment and supplies further into Antarctica. Radio enabled communication from Byrd’s base at Little America with field parties on the ice and with pilots in the air. As each expedition

improved upon the technologies of the previous ones, the entire continent of Antarctica became available for science.

## ***Admiral Richard E. Byrd: In His Own Words***

Traditionally, polar explorers--then and now--maintain a diary in order to record one’s experiences in this extraordinary environment. Many expected to publish their accounts, either as articles in newspapers or popular books or tomes of science.

Admiral Richard Byrd was no different. In fact, publication and the publicity associated with selling a new book were fundamental to Byrd’s career for two reasons. Revenue from the sale of books and stories paid the costs of the previous expeditions and also provided money to buy supplies and equipment for the next. Byrd himself raised money for his expedition to the North Pole in 1926 and his first two expeditions to Antarctica.

Of course, the length of Byrd’s career as a public hero and as a polar explorer (1926 to 1957) occasioned an immense number of books and articles by him and about him. The first two expeditions to Antarctica resulted in three books credited to Byrd, with assistance from Byrd’s publicist, Charles Murphy.



Byrd’s papers at The Ohio State University, which include letters, expeditionary records, diaries, photographs, audio recordings, and films, are extraordinary both in research value and in physical extent. The collection is housed in approximately 500 boxes, probably the largest collection of documentation about any single polar explorer.



## ***Sir Hubert Wilkins: The Man***

Sir Hubert Wilkins (1888-1958) was a contemporary and rival of Admiral Richard E. Byrd and a distinguished polar explorer himself. Wilkins had several “firsts” to his credit. He was the first to fly across the Arctic from Point Barrow, Alaska to Spitzbergen, Norway, and in 1928, he was knighted by King George V of England for this feat. In the same year, Wilkins ventured to Antarctica and with the financial support of newspaper mogul William Randolph Hearst, made the first airplane flight in Antarctica. [Hearst backed Wilkins while *The New York Times* supported Byrd.] In 1931, Wilkins commanded the *Nautilus* submarine in the Arctic and became the first to prove that submarines could move under polar ice.



Wilkins was a popular lecturer and a highly valued consultant to the United States Army in polar clothing and equipment. During his lifetime, Wilkins wrote several works, including *Undiscovered Australia*, *Flying the Arctic*, *Under the North Pole*, and *Our Search for the Lost Soviet Aviators*. So important was Wilkins to polar research that in 1959 the United States Navy granted Wilkins’s request to have his ashes scattered at the North Pole by a submarine, the *USS Skate*.

The Ohio State University acquired the papers of Sir George Hubert Wilkins in 1985 and in 1988. They include expeditionary records, photographs, films, and letters and are housed in more than fifty boxes. Currently, two documentary producers are completing films about Wilkins.

## ***Sir Hubert Wilkins and Others***



Although Wilkins had significant stature as an expert in polar matters and as a journalist and photographer, he did not have Byrd’s status in America as a public celebrity or as a national hero. However, his personal wealth and his connections to others allowed Wilkins to lead, as well as to accompany others, on many expeditions to the Arctic and Antarctic. Wilkins partnered with such notable explorers as Sir Ernest Shackleton, Vilhjalmur Stefansson, and most prominently with the wealthy American explorer

Commander Lincoln Ellsworth. From 1935 through 1939, Wilkins managed four expeditions to Antarctica for Ellsworth.

## *Dr. Frederick A. Cook: Hero of the Belgica Expedition*



Born in Hortonville, NY in 1865, Dr. Frederick A. Cook had his first experience in polar exploration in 1891, as ethnologist and photographer for Commander Robert Peary's expedition to Greenland. In 1897, Cook volunteered to join a Belgian expedition to Antarctica, which needed a physician. Although the expedition flew the Belgian flag, was financed by Belgians, and named its vessel the *Belgica*, the ship actually had an international crew. First-mate was a Norwegian, Roald Amundsen, who would be the first man to reach the South Pole in 1911 and would become a close friend of Cook.

The *Belgica* Expedition provided more adventure than anyone had expected. On March 3, 1898, the ship became frozen in the ice and remained so for a year. During that time, Dr. Cook busied himself by taking care of the crew, who were dying from scurvy. Cook persuaded a reluctant captain

Adrien de Gerlache to encourage the men to eat raw meat. Based on his experience in Greenland, Cook believed that a diet rich in raw meat could provide the vitamins that were lacking in the canned and salted goods on the ship. Cook was right and the crew recovered.

Cook observed the psychological despair of his shipmates and became convinced that they needed physical exercise. He noticed leads in the ice and led a project to use saws to connect the leads and create a channel. As the weather warmed, the channel broadened and allowed the *Belgica* to escape through the ice and into open water.

Possessing an innovative and creative mind, Cook used his time in Antarctica to improving goggles and developing a light and easily constructed tent. Cook himself would use these instruments and others in his effort to reach the North Pole in 1908.



As a writer, Cook was unusually talented. In 1900, his account of the *Belgica* expedition, *Through the First Antarctic Night, 1898-1899* and its extraordinary photographs made Dr. Cook famous as the hero of the expedition and a prominent polar explorer.

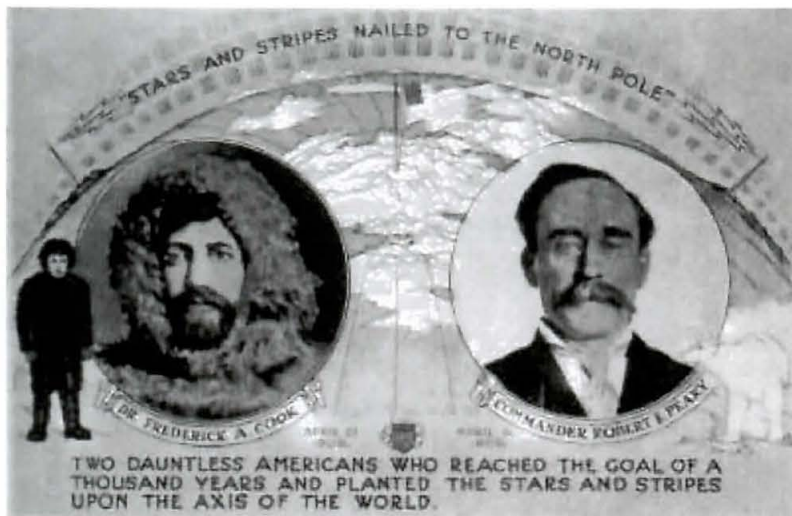


## ***Dr. Cook in Controversy***

Dr. Frederick A. Cook is probably the most controversial figure in the history of polar exploration. In 1903, Dr. Cook made use of his experiences in Greenland and in Antarctica and his interest in mountaineering to attempt to reach the summit of Mt. McKinley in Alaska, which had never been climbed. He did succeed in circumnavigating the mountain and garnered enough information to attempt another climb in 1906, when he claimed to have attained the summit.



Honored by the National Geographic Society, Dr. Cook decided to use his experience and his fame to reach the North Pole. Unlike his rival Commander Robert Peary, Cook believed that a small expedition could travel quickly and, by adapting to native techniques and customs, could reach the North Pole. Cook even designed a special sled that was exceptionally light and could also be used as a boat to cross leads in the Arctic ice.



In 1907, Dr. Cook attempted to reach the North Pole. He was not heard from again until May of 1909, when he claimed to have reached the North Pole on April 22, 1908 with two natives from Greenland. His delay in returning was occasioned by weather and difficult travel, which required him to spend a winter in a cave.

In September of 1909, Commander Robert Peary

announced to the world that Peary had reached the North Pole on April 6, 1909 and denounced Cook's claim as a fraud. Although both men have been dead for decades (Peary in 1920 and Cook in 1940), the controversy rages to the present.

Supporters of Dr. Cook claim that Peary and his wealthy supporters vilified and undermined Cook. Cook charged that Peary destroyed Cook's original navigational records, which he had left behind in Greenland at a site that Peary had visited. Furthermore, Cook and his supporters scoffed that Peary's own records did not support his claim to have reached the North Pole. On

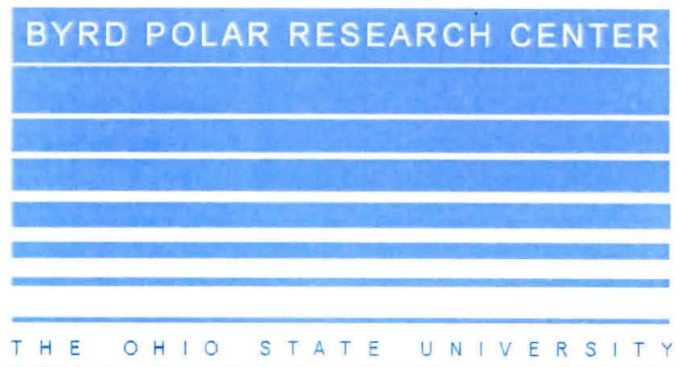
the other hand, supporters of Peary maintain that Cook lied about his accomplishment of the North Pole and that he never had any navigational records to support his claim.

Controversy also surrounds Cook's accomplishment of Mt. McKinley. In 1909, as the two men debated each other's claims to the North Pole, one of Cook's companions in 1906 "confessed" that he and Cook had lied about reaching the top of Mt. McKinley. Supporters of Dr. Cook have pointed out that backers of Peary provided financial support for the confession.

In 1940, Dr. Cook died in relative obscurity but maintained that he had reached the North Pole in 1908. Sixteen years after his death, Cook's daughter and others established the Dr. Frederick A. Cook Society to maintain Dr. Cook's claims, an organization that continues to meet, sponsor conferences, and produces publication.

### ***Byrd Polar Research Center: Past and Present***

Ohio State University has had a research interest in Antarctica for many decades. Beginning in the 1930's, Professor Richard Goldthwait, a geologist, commenced research studies and used radar to measure the thickness of ice. After the International Geophysical Year of 1957, which was primarily scientific investigations of Antarctica, the University served as a data processing center for compiling data sent from scientific stations on the frozen continent. In 1961, under the leadership of Professor Goldthwait, The Ohio State University created the Institute of Polar Studies. The Institute provided opportunities for OSU scientists in different academic departments to collaborate and exchange ideas about research in polar regions.



Dr. Goldthwait knew Admiral Byrd and members of Byrd's family, and was instrumental in bringing the collection to The Ohio State University in 1985. As a living memorial to Admiral Byrd, the Institute of Polar Studies was renamed the Byrd Polar Research Center. The library of the Center is named in honor of Dr. Goldthwait.

The Byrd Polar Research Center is one of the largest and most active polar research centers in the United States. Research projects span a variety of disciplines and include paleoclimatology, geology, meteorology, biology, glaciology, and remote sensing. Research at the Center is funded by numerous foundations and governmental agencies, including the National Science Foundation and NASA. Byrd Center members collaborate with scientists from all over the world and Byrd Center alumni are well represented in international polar research centers. Research results are published in peer reviewed journals. The Center also publishes a report series which is available on an exchange/gift basis.



## *Art and Antarctica*

For most people, thoughts of exploration in Antarctica typically center on dogs, skis, snowshoes, and people in fur, not paint brushes or sketch pads. Actually, art has always had a prominent place in the exploration of Antarctica. Photography began in the 1830's and only in the late



nineteenth and early twentieth centuries was it possible to take photographs in cold environments. Therefore, it was common for explorers of polar regions to be accompanied by artists to visually record the sights and phenomena for research and for popular distribution in books and articles.

In the modern era, artists continue to venture to Antarctica. Their intent is not simply to record but to provide visual interpretations of the continent, based on direct observations combined with artistic talent.

## *Select Chronology of Admiral Richard E. Byrd*



1888, October 25 Born at Winchester Virginia

1912 Graduated from U.S. Naval Academy

1914 Byrd has his first flight on an airplane

1916 Retires from active duty because of repeated injuries but after three months returns as part of military preparation for World War I

1918 Receives pilot's wings and becomes assistant superintendent at Pensacola

1919 Assigned to newly crated Transatlantic Flight Section for U.S. Navy

1925 Commanded U.S. Navy pilots as part of Professor Donald MacMillan's expedition, financed principally by the National Geographic Society, to Greenland

1926, May 9 Flight over North Pole

1927 Flight across the Atlantic

1928 - 1930 First expedition to Antarctica and flight across the South Pole

1933 Second expedition to Antarctica. Nearly dies while maintaining an interior weather station

1939 leads expedition funded by U.S. Government to Antarctica and establishes two bases

1947 Made officer-in-charge of the U.S. Navy's Operation High Jump, the largest expedition to Antarctica

1955 Fifth and last trip to Antarctica as part of Operation Deepfreeze, which was to build scientific stations for the International Geophysical Year

1957 Dies in Boston at the age of sixty-eight

1985 and 1990 Byrd's papers were acquired by The Ohio State University

1992-1994 a grant from the U.S. Department of Education facilitated the processing and cataloging of the enormous (more than 500 boxes) collection



## ***Select Chronology of Sir George Hubert Wilkins***

1888, October 31 Born in Mount Bryan East, South Australia

1908 Hired by the Gaumont Company of London as a cinematographer and by the *London Daily Chronicle* as a reporter

1910 Learned to fly an airplane

1912 Sent to Constantinople to photograph and shoot films of the Balkan War



1913-16 Traveled with Vilhjalmur Stefansson as photographer and second-in-command of expeditions in the Arctic

1917 Commanded photographic section of the Australian Forces in France during World War I

1919-1920 Participated as second-in-command of the British Imperial Antarctic Expedition

1921-1922 Chief of the scientific staff and naturalist for Sir Ernest Shackleton's last expedition to Antarctica

1923-1925 Commanded the Wilkins Australia and Islands Expedition sponsored by the British Museum

1926-1928 Commander of the Wilkins-Detroit Arctic Expedition sponsored by the Detroit Aviation Society and the *Detroit News*. Accomplished the first trans-Arctic airplane flight in April of 1928

1928 First airplane flight in Antarctica; Knighted by King George V of England

1931 Commanded the *Nautilus* submarine expedition to the Arctic

1935-1939 Manager of expeditions led by Commander Lincoln Ellsworth, which successfully flew an airplane across Antarctica, with multiple stops

1938 Commanded the Alaskan-Canadian search section looking for the lost Soviet Polar Expedition commanded by Sigimund Levanevsky

1940-1958 Career as government consultant and lecturer

1958, December 1 Dies at the age of seventy

1985 and 1988 The Ohio State University acquires the papers of Sir George Hubert Wilkins

## Select Chronology of Dr. Frederick A. Cook



- 1865 Born in Hortonville, NY
- 1887 Enters College of Physicians and Surgeons at Columbia University but later transferred to New York University and earns medical degree
- 1891 Volunteers for Robert Peary's expedition to Greenland, where he served as ethnologist and photographer
- 1897 Volunteers for Belgian Antarctic Expedition as physician and photographer
- 1899 Achieves hero status when his account of the expedition is published by *New York Herald*
  
- 1903 Commences first expedition to Mt. McKinley and successfully circumnavigates the mountain
- 1906 Claims attainment of the summit of Mt. McKinely with Ed Barrill.
- 1908 Sets out for the North Pole and claims to have reached it on April 22, accompanied by two Eskimos
- 1909 Reaches Greenland in April and announces that he has reached the North Pole a year earlier  
  
In September, learns that Peary claims to have reached the North Pole on April 6, 1909 and denounces Cook's claim as fraudulent  
  
Barrill denounces Cook's Mt. McKinley claims as fraudulent in published affidavit; receives payment for his statement
- 1910 Explorer's Club Expedition to Mt. McKinley claims to have discovered that the peak Cook identified as the summit was a lower peak
- 1911 Establishes the Polar Publishing Company to publish his book, *My Attainment of the Pole*.
- 1919 Becomes president of Texas Eagle Oil Production and Refining Company in Fort Worth, Texas
- 1921 Company goes out of business during oil slump



- 1922 Organizes Petroleum Producers Association to sell oil stocks
- 1923 Convicted of using U.S. mail to defraud investors and receives a 14 year and 9 month sentence, the most severe of all the defendants
- 1925 - 1930 Prisoner at the federal prison in Leavenworth, Kansas, where he works with drug addicted prisoners, serves as physician in the hospital, and as superintendent of the prison school
- 1939 Meets with Sir Hubert Wilkins who is planning a submarine trip along Cook's alleged route to the North Pole.
- 1940 May 5 Suffers a cerebral hemorrhage
- May 16 Receives pardon from President Franklin D. Roosevelt
- August 5 Dies while still maintaining his claims to the North Pole and Mount McKinley
- 1976 Frederick A. Cook Society is incorporated in New York State as a charitable, not-for-profit corporation "to gain official recognition for the scientific and geographic accomplishments of Dr. Frederick A. Cook"
- 1996 Society transfers Papers and Records of Frederick A. Cook Society to The Ohio State University and provides funding for cataloging and processing

## ***SOME BOOKS FOR A GENERAL HISTORY OF ANTARCTICA***

- Antarctica: The Extraordinary History of Man's Conquest of the Frozen Continent. New York: Reader's Digest, 1990. Colorful and informative, this book is intended for the general audience.
- Baughman, T. H. Before the Heroes Came: Antarctica in the 1890s. Lincoln, Nebraska: University of Nebraska Press, 1994. Colorful and fascinating account of the politics and constituencies involved in the scientific explorations of Antarctica in the 1890s.
- Bertrand, Kenneth J. Americans in Antarctica, 1775-1948. New York: American Geographical Society, 1971. Comprehensive and thorough, the book provides a summary of each expedition as well as a detailed review.
- Bloom, Lisa. Gender on Ice: American Ideology of Polar Exploration. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota, 1993. Focus is on cultural values and concerns for masculinity as they pertain to popular interest and enthusiasm in exploration.
- Fogg, Gordon Elliott. A History of Antarctic Science. Cambridge: University Press, 1992. An encyclopedic approach that is informative but not exciting.
- Headland, Robert K. Chronological List of Antarctic Expeditions and Related Historical Events. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1989. The title is deceiving. This is a lengthy and comprehensive work.
- Riffenburgh, Beau. The Myth of the Explorer: The Press, Sensationalism, and Geographical Discovery. London: Belhaven Press (Scott Polar Institute): 1993. Wonderfully entertaining and informative study of the relationship between journalism and exploration, especially in matters of finance and competition.